

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 AID-05 PRS-01 /075 W

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O R 122140Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1370

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 7330

DEPT FOR UNDER SECRETARY MAW, ARA - AMB. RYAN, L/ARA - KOZAK,
L/EUR - GANTZ, S/P - DR. EINAUDI, TREASURY - MARESCA

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, PE

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE GOP PURCHASE OF SOVIET MILITARY AIRCRAFT

REF: LIMA 7308, WEBER-FINBERG FONECON AUGUST 12

1. AS INDICATED REFTTEL, GOP PURCHASE OF SOVIET SU-22
MILITARY AIRCRAFT COULD HAVE IMMEDIATE NEGATIVE EFFECT
ON WILLINGNESS OF U.S. BANKERS TO GRANT BALANCE-OF-
PAYMENTS LOAN TO GOP, AND THUS UPSET FINANCING FOR MARCONA
SETTLEMENT. HOWEVER, FAILURE TO SETTLE MARCONA SOON
COULD BE ONLY ONE OF MANY ADVERSE EFFECTS ON U.S.- PERUVIAN
RELATIONS OF ANOTHER MAJOR GOP ARMS BUY FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

2. INTERESTED MISSION ELEMENTS HERE CANNOT SAY DEFINITELY
WHETHER GOP HAS SIGNED A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH USSR,
OR IF SO WHETHER ANY SUCH AGREEMENT IS ABSOLUTELY BINDING.
HOWEVER, NOW THAT STORIES ABOUT ALLEGED PURCHASE HAVE
APPEARED IN CARACAS, BOGOTA, BUENOS AIRES, TOKYO AND
POSSIBLY OTHER NEWSPAPERS, WE BELIEVE TIME HAS COME FOR A
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FORMAL INQUIRY TO THE PERUVIANS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE OUR

APPROACH TO GOP SHOULD INCLUDE A RECITAL OF THE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF A PURCHASER OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT FROM SOVIET UNION. THE GOP SHOULD GET THAT MESSAGE FROM THE BANK OF AMERICA'S FORMAL INQUIRIES.

3. SUGGESTED ACTION: (A) EMBASSY SUGGESTS IN THIS REGARD THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER CALLING IN AMBASSADOR GARCIA BEDOYA, WHO IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON OVER WEEK-END OR EARLY NEXT WEEK, TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE TRUTH OF THE PRESS REPORTS. THE USG SHOULD NOT APPEAR FORMALLY TO BE PRESSURING THE GOP, NOR SHOULD WE RISK REJECTION BY GOP ON THE GROUNDS THAT WE "ARE MEDDLING IN INTERNAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS". (B) FOR OUR PART, AND SINCE THE PERUVIAN MILITARY HAVE ASKED CHIEF MAAG LIMA TO REQUEST A LETTER OF OFFER FOR U.S. A-4'S AND HAVE RECEIVED A PROPOSAL FROM LTV FOR USED F-8'S WE SUGGEST HE SHOULD ALSO INQUIRE OF PERUVIAN AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF OR PRESIDENT OF THE JOINT COMMAND WHETHER, IN VIEW OF THE PRESS REPORTS, THE PAF HAS LOST INTEREST IN THIS POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF U.S. AIRCRAFT. (IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION WASHINGTON'S RECEIPT OF CHMAAG 142200Z JUL 76.) PLEASE ADVISE.
SMITH

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